

## THE WAY TO HEAVEN

**Introduction** John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, once wrote: "I am a creature of a day, passing through life as an arrow through the air. I want to know one thing—the way to Heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God has written it down in a Book. Oh, give me that Book!" (*Forty-four Sermons*, preface, p 6).

This is the heart-cry of millions of men and women today—including ourselves. We are all hungry for simple, understandable teaching about the Way of Salvation.

What is God's answer?

When we studied "God's Bridge from Death to Life" (Lesson 6), we found that His Way of Salvation is a Person—the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14: 6: "I am the Way."

But how does God's "Way" operate? How does Jesus save? How does His saving work benefit us personally?

In order to experience a full salvation, there are four things that we and all other sinners need:

**CONVICTION** that we are sinners.

**CLEANSING** from the guilt of past sin.

**POWER** to overcome sin, and keep God's commandments.

**RESCUE** from a world of disease, decay and death.

If these four needs could be met, we would have a complete salvation. Can Jesus meet these needs? Let us open the Bible and see.

### **Discussion** 1.—CONVICTION THAT WE ARE SINNERS

The Bible is the only book in the world that holds up a faithful mirror to our hearts, and tells us the whole truth about ourselves.

James 1: 23-25: God's mirror is His Law of Ten Commandments.

Ecd. 7: 20: "There is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not."

Rom. 3: 23: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

I John 1: 8, 10: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and make God a liar."

Isa. 64: 6: "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."

This is the unwavering verdict of God's mirror—the Bible. We cannot take the first step towards salvation unless we accept this verdict, and cry out for cleansing.

Luke 18: 13: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

But this conviction is only the first awakening of desire. It only makes us feel our need of a Saviour. There is no strength or victory in it. What a mockery the Gospel would be, if God brought us thus far, and then abandoned us. If there was only conviction, but no cleansing. If there was only a mirror, but no fountain!

### 2.—CLEANSING FROM THE GUILT OF PAST SINS

(See Chart No. 3—Christ our Sin Bearer)

Zech. 13: 1: "A fountain for sin and uncleanness."

Isa. 1: 18: "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Isa. 53: 5, 6: "He was wounded for our transgressions."

Rom. 5: 8: "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

I John 1: 9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive."

I John 1: 7: "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."